

**Montana Fact Sheet**

The move to online assessments gives rise to a distinctive set of opportunities for school technology. The Technology Readiness online tool will give Montana schools a convenient way to capture and report on indicators of their technology readiness for the Smarter Balanced Assessments.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), working with the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) and Pearson, have developed the Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) to support states as they transition to next-generation assessments. This open source tool will help state education agencies, including the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI), work with schools and districts to ensure readiness when the online assessments are launched by the two consortia, beginning in the 2014-15 school year.

The Technology Readiness Tool assesses current capacity and compares that to the technology that will be needed to administer the new online assessments in four areas:

1. Computers and other devices
2. Ratio of devices to test-takers
3. Network and infrastructure
4. Personnel (staffing and training)

**Proposed Actions and Timeline**

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| May – June 2012:       | The OPI and five school districts (Bozeman, Cascade, Ekalaka, Lewistown and Montana City) piloted the use of the Technology Readiness Tool  |
| Summer - Fall 2012:    | Minimum system requirements will be developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. Districts will then be able to compare existing resources to those needed for implementation of next-generation assessments.   |
| Fall 2012 - Fall 2014: | All Montana school districts will have opportunity to use the Technology Readiness Tool to determine their readiness to implement next-generation assessments on an on-going basis. National deadlines have been set to update technology readiness data to chart district progress toward implementation of next-generation assessments. |

Saturday, June 30, 2012\*

Friday, December 14, 2012

Friday, June 14, 2013

Friday, December 13, 2013

Friday, June 13, 2014

Monday, August 18, 2014

\*Only pilot schools participated in the first national data extraction.

If you have questions, please contact the Montana State Readiness Coordinator (SRC). OPI SRC: Colet Bartow, (406) 444-3583, [cbartow@mt.gov](mailto:cbartow@mt.gov).

Visit the Montana Common Core Standards and Assessment Web page for additional information about the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. <http://opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/MontCAS/GetReady.php>